Docket No.: KLOTZ-3 Appl. No.: 10/789,412

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

 (Currently amended) A method of making a molded plastic article, in particular a thick-walled, flat molded article such as a disc, comprising the steps of:

closing a cavity of a positive mold by applying a clamping force;

fully filling the cavity with plastic material, while maintaining a size of the cavity constant;

adding plastic material so as to distend the positive mold in opposition to the clamping force until the <u>cavity of the</u> positive mold <u>expands to reach</u> reaches a defined size for producing a defined article thickness;

closing the positive mold until reaching a residual distending opening and molding the plastic material into a plastic article while applying the clamping force to thereby maintain the plastic material compressed; and removing the plastic article.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding step is controlled in dependence on a distance traveled by an advancing screw.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adding step is controlled in dependence on a distending motion of the positive mold.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the steps of measuring an internal pressure in the positive mold, and applying the clamping force in dependence on a profile of the internal pressure.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising the step of applying a higher clamping force upon the positive mold at a location closer to a sprue than at a location farther away from the sprue.

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- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the molding step is carried out at constant clamping force.
- 7. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for making a molded plastic article, in particular a thick-walled, flat molded article such as a disc, comprising:
 - a positive mold;
 - a closing unit for closing the mold and applying a clamping force upon the closed mold; and
 - a measuring device for ascertaining an distension of the closed mold in opposition to the clamping force.
- 8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the measuring device has plural sensors for determining an uneven distension of the mold.
- 9. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the mold is a positive mold having die inserts.
- 10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the measuring device includes a displacement transducer provided on a moving platen of the mold.
- 11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the measuring device includes a plurality of displacement transducers disposed in proximity of a sprue site of the mold.
- 12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plastic article is a thick-walled, flat molded article.
- 13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plastic article is a disc.